



The Honorable Nicholas Mattiello  
Speaker of the House  
State House – Room 323  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: Support for H 7523**

**July 14, 2020**

Dear Speaker Mattiello and Members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives:

As small business owners and supporters of Keeping Jobs in Rhode Island, Inc., we write today in strong support of House Bill 7523, the revised economic development proposal that will keep IGT's 1,100 jobs in Rhode Island and bring Twin River Management Group's worldwide headquarters to Providence. Our small, local businesses have grown in Rhode Island because of the contracts we have with IGT. The Rhode Island economy and Rhode Island small business particularly cannot afford the risk of watching another major employer depart.

The fact is both IGT and Twin River could set up their operations anywhere. IGT is still here because 20 years ago the state smartly negotiated an employment mandate into their contract. Because of that mandate, IGT's 1,000+ employees create \$330 million of economic activity in Rhode Island each year, including revenue and profit for small local businesses like mine. IGT's presence in Rhode Island supports 1,300 additional jobs in the broader Rhode Island economy.

There's a proposal on the table to keep IGT – and 1,100 good-paying jobs – in Rhode Island until 2043. This new proposal is better than the proposal first introduced and protects taxpayers. As importantly, it protects thousands of jobs and positions Rhode Island's emerging innovative economy for more growth. Having a foundational tech company like IGT and a rapidly expanding entertainment and hospitality company like Twin River headquartered in our Capital City will help to build the diverse workforce we need to solidify our economy recovery.

Small businesses have watched this debate more than a year. Facing a massive economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we need predictability to plan our growth and manage our budgets more than we ever have before. Two decades ago, the General Assembly wisely approved an economic development agreement with IGT that bolstered our economy and gave small businesses confidence that a major employer would set roots in Rhode Island for the long term. This agreement before you today continues that commitment with not one major employer, but two.

We hope after nearly 13 months of review, analysis, and thorough public hearings that you vote to approve the proposal.

Most Sincerely,

**Susan Coppa-Collins**  
President, Pro Health  
Inc.  
Providence, Rhode  
Island

**Paul Hansen**  
CEO, Millennium  
Consulting  
S. Kingstown, Rhode  
Island  
**Michael Sepe**

VP and COO, Electro  
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Cranston, Rhode Island  
**Bill Murray**

General Manager, ATR  
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**David LaPorte**

President, ATR  
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**Dana Loiselle**  
President, Aid  
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**Mark Murtagh**  
Managing Partner,  
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